

Library

BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1959.



J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Assistant School Medical Officer.

October, 1960.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1959.

There was again a small increase (of 40) in the Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population of the Urban District.

There was also a further fall in the number of deaths from all causes compared with the previous two years, the number being 1959 - 90, 1958 - 102, 1957 - 113. The total of deaths of infants under one year declined to 2 compared with 5 in the previous year and 8 in 1957.

The incidence of infectious diseases continued to be low and there were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis during the year.

Local Industries - These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 650 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply -

(a) Town's Supply

The prolonged drought which extended from April to November caused the yield from the springs to fall to a record low level. It was apparent in early June that a serious shortage of water for the town's domestic needs would occur if the drought continued during the summer months. In the emergency, The Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board agreed to make a new 6" metered connection to the Barnard Castle U.D.C. mains. The connection was completed on the 25th June and resulted in a good and plentiful supply of water and pressure throughout the year which was one of severe drought.

14 samples of water taken from the water supply system were submitted for Bacteriological Examination and 2 samples were sent for Chemical Analysis. 10 of the Bacteriological samples were in Class I, 4 in Class II. Of 3 samples taken from taps served by water purchased by the Council from the Cleveland and Tees Valley Water Board, two were in Class I and one in Class II when Bacteriologically examined.

Five samples taken from taps served by the water from the Council's supply or mixed water from the Council's and Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board's supply gave results as follows:- 4 in Class I; 1 in Class II. Three samples from Fountain Head Spring were in Class I.

Of three samples from Stoney Keld Spring, one was in Class I and two in Class II.

The Chemical analysis of water from the two springs serving the Council's supply were satisfactory.

(b) Regrouping of Water Undertaking

This Council is in agreement with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's latest circular regarding regrouping of water undertakings. The Council representatives, at a meeting held in June with the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board, expressed their willingness to negotiate with a view to amalgamation of the water undertaking. The Council are awaiting a further communication from the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board in this matter.

Refuse Tip

The filling of the area near the highway has been completed. The area has been covered with a layer of soil, reseeded and brought back into grazing land.

The tipping face is now well removed from the highway and is proceeding in a westerly direction.

A good approach road has been formed to the tipping face; further fencing and wire netting have been erected to keep the tip in a tidy condition.

Land to the west of the tipping face not yet required for tipping purposes is let annually for grazing.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

New soil and surface water sewers have been completed for the Bridgegate and Thorngate Wynd redevelopment scheme for Council houses. The old exposed sewer carried on stone piers alongside the river wall has been abandoned and recently removed.

The Report of the Council's Consulting Engineers for the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works to provide for the town's present and future requirements for the next 15 to 20 years and the acceptance of soil drainage from the Village of Startforth and soil drainage from Darlington Road lying within the Barnard Castle Rural District area has been received and is under consideration.

Closet Accommodation.

Five dry closets remain in the area. The remainder are on the water carriage system. Two dwellings with dry closets were the subject of Closing Orders during the year, one being still occupied at 31st December, 1959.

Housing.

The statutory return of unfit houses which the Council submitted to the Minister under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 covering the Council's programme for five years from 1st August, 1955 is as follows:-

Estimate of number of houses in the area suitable for action under Sections 44 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957	84
Position of Council's Slum Clearance Programme at 31.12.59	
No. in Confirmed Clearance Areas	60
Houses subject to Demolition Orders	8
Closing Order made since the report	11
No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Slum Clearance schemes or other formal action	4
No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	3
No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed	33
No. of dwellings permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action	1
<u>Reconditioning and Repair.</u> - No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing and Public Health Acts	
1. As a result of informal action	4
2. By owners as a result of statutory notice	Nil
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

Improvement Grants - Housing Acts 1949 & 1959

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	15
2. Applications refused by Local Authority	Nil
3. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	46
4. Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme	39

New Dwellings - Four houses in Thorngate Wynd were completed by the North Eastern Housing Association Limited on behalf of the Council. Ten private dwellings were completed and occupied during the year.

Future Development by the Council - The remaining 36 dwellings in the original contract for the redevelopment of Bridgegate were in various stages of construction at the end of the year.

Plans were well advanced for the construction of twelve dwellings to complete the redevelopment of Bridgegate. The commencement of the construction of the dwellings depends on the rehousing of the tenants and the demolition of the houses and other buildings occupying the site.

Preliminary plans are also forward for the construction of two dwellings at 43 and 45, The Bank.

The number of applications on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 138 compared with a figure of 236 at the end of 1958.

Provision of Houses by Local Authority

	Situation	No. of Bedrooms				
		1	2	3	4	Total
Pre 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25*
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre 1939	14	35	20	10	79
Post 1939	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	6 Flats	6 Flats	13	-	39
	Green Lane Site North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8 Flats	68 8 Flats	80	12	176
	The Bank North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	-	2	1	3
	Thorngate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	1	-	1	-	2
	Bridgegate Redevelopment North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	-	4	-	4
	Total Post 1939	23	116	222	31	392
	GRAND TOTAL	37	151	242	41	471

* Comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Confirmed Clearance Areas.

4 dwellings in Clearance Areas made before 1939 were still standing on 31st December, 1959. Two in Gray Lane were occupied as one dwelling by Mr. and Mrs. H. Foster and family.

Post War Clearance Areas position at 31st December 1959.

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Houses in occupation	No. Demolished	No. Vacant
1	8.8.57	4	-	-	4	-
2	-do-	5	-	-	2	3
3	-do-	16	8	3	9	4
4	-do-	3	-	-	3	-
5	-do-	8	2	1	3	4
6	13.8.57	4	1	1	1	2
7	8.8.57	3	1	1	-	2
9	5.7.57	3	-	-	2	1
10	8.8.57	4	3	2	-	2
TOTALS		50	15	8	24	18

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	14	12	4
Factories not included in above which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	14	1
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	17	4
TOTALS	81	43	9

The number of outworkers remains at six. All the outworkers premises are satisfactory.

Tents and Caravans.

Five licences to station individual trailer caravans were issued during the year.

There are two camping grounds in the area.

Field O.S. No. 2 near the Red Well Inn, Harmire Road, has a yearly licence to station 20 trailer caravans at any one time.

The camping ground on Field O.S. No. 58 near Prospect Place is not restricted.

The management and layout of both of these camping grounds are far from ideal.

Rodent Control.

The part-time rodent operative continued the treatment of infested premises. The only major infestation found during the year was at the Council's Refuse Tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the town and almost all of the thirty seven retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

Milk

Six retailers are licenced to sell Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested and Sterilized Milk.

Slaughterhouses

4 slaughterhouses were licenced during the year.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Slaughterhouse, Birch Road | Mr. F. A. Youngs |
| 2. Slaughterhouses rear of 46, The Bank | Mr. R. C. Jackson |
| 3. Slaughterhouse, Vere Road | Mr. W. H. Foster |
| 4. Slaughterhouse rear of 54, Galgate | Mr. W. Peat |

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in the year
ending 31st December, 1959.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	703	23	12	3058	963
Number inspected	703	23	12	3030	963
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	3	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	211	9	2	132	236
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	30.01	39.13	16.66	4.45	24.50
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	3	-	-	-	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.56	-	-	-	1.04
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1959)	5,210
Number of inhabited houses	1,629
Rateable Value	£53,099
Sum represented by a penny rate (Financial Year ended 31/3/59)	£179. 6. 8.

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum for permission to include the following table:-

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1959
compiled from the Bowes Museum

Observer Station:	Bowes Museum
Observer:	Frank Atkinson, Curator.
Height of Gauge above Sea Level:	550 feet.

<u>1959</u>	<u>Ins.</u>
January	2.90
February	.21
March	1.37
April	2.47
May	.53
June	1.99
July	1.20
August	.80
September	1.21
October	2.02
November	5.69
December	<u>4.50</u>
	<u>24.89</u>

Average
5 years 1955 - 1959 29.44 ins.

24.89 1959
36.06 1958
30.67 1957
33.14 1956
22.43 1955

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live-Births</u>	Legitimate } Illegitimate }	100	{ 95 5	47 2	48 3

Crude Birth-Rate 19.2 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 18.2 per 1,000 home population.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales 16.5 per 1,000 home population.

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Still-Births</u>	Legitimate } Illegitimate }	2	2 -	- -	2 -

Still Birth-Rate per 1,000 home population 0.38

Still Birth-Rate for previous year 0.19

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	90	52	38

Crude Death-Rate 17.3 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 11.0 per 1,000 home population.

For England and Wales 11.6 per 1,000 home population.

<u>Deaths of Infants Under one Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants under One Week of Age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	-
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Death-rate of Infants under One Year.

All Infants (per 1,000 live-births) 20.

For previous year 50.

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer (all types)	8	4	12
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	5	14
Coronary disease, angina	2	8	10
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
Other heart disease	16	8	24
Other circulatory disease	6	3	9
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	7	9
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>52</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>90</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of infectious disease continued to be extremely low throughout the year. Six cases of measles (compared with none in the previous year) and 14 of whooping cough (1958 - 2) were notified. There was a slight increase in the number of cases of acute primary or influenzal pneumonia (7 cases compared with 4 in 1958).

There were again no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis vaccination scheme

Vaccinations against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year and sessions were held at both child welfare clinics and schools as in the previous year. During the present year facilities also became available for inoculations to be given by general practitioners in their own surgeries, and children and young persons could thus choose between having the inoculations at the school or clinic, or given by their own doctors at the surgery. The arrangement still continued whereby the general practitioners vaccinated on a sessional basis at Child Welfare Clinics. In the case of school children, response to vaccination has been good and I find in the course of my school medical inspections that a considerable percentage of the children has now been protected by vaccination. But in the older groups the proportion is not so high even though the unfortunate death from poliomyelitis of a well known footballer earlier in the year resulted in a temporary increase in applicants for a few months. I give below the return of the different categories of persons who were vaccinated during the year.

Barnard Castle Rural and Urban Districts Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme.

Number vaccinated with two injections, between
1st January 1959 and 31st December, 1959:-

Children born in the years 1943 to 1959	1,662
Young persons born in the years 1933 to 1942	708
Expectant Mothers	66
General Practitioners and their families	3
Ambulance Staff and their families	-
Hospital Staff, medical students and their families	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>2,442</u>

Total number of persons who since the inception of
the scheme had received three injections at
31st December, 1959 2,584.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis not confirmed	Total Cases
Measles	6	-	-	6
Whooping Cough	14	-	-	14
Acute primary or influenzal pneumonia	7	1	-	7
Erysipelas	2	-	-	2

Analysis of Total Cases (confirmed) in age groups)

	Under one year	1 to 2	2 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over
Measles	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	2	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	4	5	2	1	2	2	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	117	4	37	105	122	-	6
Whooping Cough	9	23	-	3	44	19	2	14
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Ac. Primary Pneumonia	5	3	1	2	2	6	4	7
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	17	-

Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children aged under 15 who received a primary course of diphtheria combined with whooping cough immunisation amounted to 66, and one child received a course of diphtheria immunisation only. Two children were immunised for whooping cough.

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months, and to encourage re-inforcing doses, at the age of 4 yrs. 9 months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice and reminders are given to parents by the School Medical Officer at the annual medical inspection of schools.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year
ended 31st December, 1959.

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1959

Age at date of final injection		Total under 15
0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	
1	-	1

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year 6.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough

Age at date of final injection		Total under 15
0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	
63	3	66

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year 9.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against whooping cough

Age at date of final injection		Total under 15
0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	
1	1	2

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year NIL.

Tuberculosis

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year, the patient being a female aged 36 years. One case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, a boy aged 5 years, suffering from tuberculous neck glands was notified.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis recorded during the year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Staff - The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Public Health Inspector are whole-time Officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and part by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town, and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals - There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases of Children, in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Negotiations are at the present time taking place between the Trustees of the Home and the Regional Hospital Board with a view to the Home being taken over by the Hospital Board for use under the National Health Service.

Ambulance Facilities - I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

Barnard Castle urban and rural districts are served by two ambulance depots, two ambulances and four driver-attendants.

Summary of work done by vehicles stationed in the
Urban and Rural Districts

<u>Journeys</u>	<u>Stretcher Cases</u>	<u>Sitting Cases</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
1,111	510	4,325	4,835	62,954

In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

Nursing Arrangements.

Home Nursing - Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, 1954, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife service.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area by two District Nurse Midwives resident in the town.

Miss L. H. Dodd, 15, Harmire Road, Barnard Castle.	Telephone No. Barnard Castle 2149
--	--------------------------------------

Mrs. M. L. Morton, 3, Harmire Road, Barnard Castle.	Telephone No. Barnard Castle 3156
---	--------------------------------------

Midwifery Service

No. of Midwifery and Maternity Cases	54
No. of Hospital patients discharged before the 14th day	16

Home Nursing Service

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Medical	86	1938
Surgical	20	462
Tuberculosis	4	260
Total	110	2660

No. of cases included in the above total who were 65 yrs. of age or over	64	1921
---	----	------

No. of cases included in the above total who were under 5 yrs. of age	4	28
--	---	----

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress - Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N. S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee - The Committee, of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White, and to Mr. E. Dixon, Public Health Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

